

there is a blast, it will remain inside the container and not bring the airplane down.

Do you think this administration will do this? Let me tell you no, and let me tell you how I know—because I sit on the Commerce Committee. We have jurisdiction over the FAA. Years ago, I had an amendment pass the committee that said: Let's test these blast-resistant containers. Usually they would be made out of Kevlar. If you have ever seen Kevlar, had an experience with Kevlar, you know this is a fantastic product we can use. Oh, no, they are still studying it. And they are still not inspecting cargo.

So when we are told the alerts are up, of course we have every reason to be worried because we are not doing what we should be doing because we are spending \$8 billion a month on Iraq, we are spending \$318 billion, we are stretching our military thin, we are soft on homeland defense, and we have neglected Afghanistan.

The face of this policy, in addition to the President, is Secretary Rumsfeld. Now as he looks around the world, he has to see it. Everybody does see it. You can dream about a better world, but all you have to do is open any newspaper—I don't care whether it is a liberal or conservative one or independent or moderate—and you know what is happening on the ground all over the world. You see it. From Darfur to Afghanistan to Iraq to Iran to North Korea to London—where, thank God they foiled the plot of the terrorists there.

Instead of saying maybe it is time we just look at our priorities and do a little bit more—we all know in America that the war on terror is going to be with us. We all know we have to be prepared. We all know they do not give up. We all know they will try again. We all know al-Qaida is still out there, with bin Laden—but even if it didn't have bin Laden, it would still be out there. Yet what does Secretary Rumsfeld do? He starts a fight by calling the American people, who do not agree with him—the majority, vast majority—appeasers when they understand very clearly that the war in Iraq is a diversion from the war on terrorism and that we are failing on the war on terrorism because we have not invested in it and haven't focused on it. The American people want us to do that. It is time for a new direction.

I brought to the attention of the Senate the threat from shoulder-fired missiles. Two dozen terrorist organizations have them. They sit on the shoulder, they weigh 35 pounds, and they can catch an airplane. Oh, they are slow-walking that. They just don't have the money. They tested it, but they are slow-walking it.

It is time for accountability. I do not think staying the course with a failing policy in Iraq has anything to do with appeasing the Nazis before World War II. Get with the current moment, Mr. Secretary and Mr. President. Let's get

a fresh face over at the Department of Defense. Let's move forward with hope. Let's move forward with a plan. Let's win back the confidence of the American people together, all of us. And let's win back the confidence of the world.

I believe it starts with accountability. That is why I plan to support an amendment that will be offered to this bill calling for new leadership at the Department of Defense.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, before the time arrives for consideration of the judicial nominee, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUDAN

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to forcefully express themselves, to urge and perhaps even compel the Government of the Sudan to proceed to accept a United Nations peacekeeping force of some 20,000 to bring stability to that area. We have seen a drastic situation evolve where some 3 million people have been displaced—perhaps a few more, perhaps a few less—and some 300,000 have been killed. The fighting goes on between the Government of Sudan and the rebels.

And the prospects are for additional bloodshed and significant displacement of refugees are great unless there is some forceful action taken by the United Nations.

The proposal has been made to have 20,000 U.N. peacekeepers deploy to Darfur to try to stabilize the situation. Regrettably, this has been rejected by the Government of Sudan.

Just today, the New York Times reports that the Government of Sudan has given the African Union an ultimatum—either proceed under the terms of the Government of Sudan, which is characterized by the news report as “blackmail,” or for the African force of some 7,000 proposed peacekeepers—they really are ineffectual in the job—to vacate the country by September 30.

I participated last Thursday, August 31, in a forum in the Trinity Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh where concerned citizens gathered to decry the situation, to urge United Nations' action. The following day, I wrote to the President requesting that a Special Envoy to Sudan be appointed.

I ask unanimous consent that my letter to President Bush, dated September 1, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The President, the White House,
Washington DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to express my support for your efforts to bring an end to the ongoing crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan and to urge the immediate appointment of a Special Envoy to Sudan.

I commend the hard work of your Administration to achieve the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), which was signed by the government of Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) faction led by Minni Arku Minnawi on May 5, 2006. I also applaud your efforts to mobilize international support for the deployment of a United Nations (U.N.) peacekeeping force to replace the African Union (A.U.) force currently in the region. I believe the DPA and deployment of a U.N. force are important steps towards ending the crisis in Darfur, which to date has led to over 200,000 deaths and 2 million people displaced from their homes and dependent on international aid agencies for survival.

Unfortunately, the refusal of many rebel groups to sign the DPA, the limited capabilities of the A.U. peacekeepers, and rejection by the government of Sudan of the deployment of a U.N. force, has led to continued violence and further deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Darfur. In July, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that more than 470,000 of 2.8 million planned beneficiaries did not receive food assistance due to the deteriorating security conditions. To make matters worse, reports indicate that the government of Sudan is preparing a renewed assault against rebel groups that remain outside the DPA. Aid officials, cited in a August 31, 2006 article in *The New York Times*, stated that a military offensive in Darfur could lead to the “complete evacuation of humanitarian workers in Northern Darfur, which would leave millions without a lifeline” and that the resulting loss of life “could dwarf the killings in 2003 and 2004”.

The DPA was signed in great measure due to the work of then-Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick. However, in light of his resignation and the fragility of the prospects for a sustainable peace in Darfur, I urge that you immediately appoint a Special Envoy to Sudan. With so many lives hanging in the balance, it is vital that the U.S. demonstrate its commitment at the highest level to the success of the Darfur peace process. I believe the appointment of a Special Envoy, charged to proactively work with all parties to fully implement the DPA and secure the deployment of a U.N. force represents the best prospect for avoiding further catastrophe in Darfur.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a report of USA Today, dated August 31, be printed in the RECORD. The headline is “U.S. Reporter's Arrest Shows Sudan Has Something To Hide.” The reporter was arrested because he reported the truth which the Government of Sudan is trying to conceal.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From USA Today, Aug. 31, 2006]
U.S. REPORTER'S ARREST SHOWS SUDAN HAS
SOMETHING TO HIDE

The great journalists, writer Pete Hamill has said, are “men and women who take a torch to the back of a cave and report what they see to the rest of the tribe.”

One of the darkest places on earth today is the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan, where at least 200,000 people have been killed and 3 million rendered homeless since 2003.

Award-winning U.S. reporter Paul Salopek was simply trying to illuminate the situation there when he was detained earlier this month, jailed and accused of espionage and writing "false news."

Looking for the truth in places such as Darfur, where truth is in short supply and needed so much, is a dangerous business. From 2001 through '05, 202 journalists were killed on duty, up from 136 in the prior five years, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

If it weren't for reporters like Salopek, the world would know little more than the twisted stories put out by the Sudanese government about the genocide in Darfur. His arrest is just one more of Sudan's increasingly shameless efforts to keep outsiders from reporting on—or doing something to end—the killings and mass rapes. Those government efforts range from shutting down many aid operations to refusing to accept a force of United Nations peacekeepers.

Similar attempts to bottle up truth or use journalists as pawns are common:

In China, Zhao Yan, a Chinese researcher for The New York Times, was jailed in 2004 on charges of leaking state secrets. He was acquitted of those charges last week but sentenced to three years in prison on an unrelated charge. Times executive editor Bill Keller said the only thing Zhao "committed is journalism."

In the Middle East, U.S. journalists have become targets. Two Fox News journalists were snatched by militants in Gaza and held for two harrowing weeks before their release Sunday. Their concern? That the incident would deter others: "I hope that this never scares a single journalist away from coming to Gaza to cover the story," said reporter Steve Centanni after his release.

Given the risks, even the severest press critic would concede that reporters' willingness to venture into the deepest caves is a courageous public service.

That's all that Salopek was doing. A Chicago Tribune reporter on a freelance assignment for National Geographic, he sneaked across the Sudanese border from Chad without a visa. For reporters, that's about the only way to get in. Usually when they are caught, they are deported.

This time, Sudan apparently chose to make a point. It did—that its claims about Darfur are not credible. The State Department and others are pressing Sudan to set Salopek free.

Salopek is anything but a spy. He is a veteran reporter who has won journalism's highest honor twice. And, unfortunately, he is the latest victim of those who seek to keep the public in the dark.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my prepared written remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER
THE SITUATION IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. President, I seek recognition today to call attention to the continuing crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Tensions are not new to this drought plagued region where Arabic nomads and African farmers have long competed for land and resources. However, the current crisis began in February 2003 when two non-Arab Darfur rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, rose up against Sudan's Arab

dominated government, demanding the same resource and power-sharing concessions being offered to rebels in southern Sudan who were then engaged in peace talks to end a separate conflict with the Government in Khartoum.

The response from the Government of Sudan was swift and brutal. An estimated 200,000 Sudanese refugees fled to neighboring Chad telling of a scorched earth campaign being carried out by armed militias, known as the Janjaweed, supported by the Government of Sudan. While the Government bombarded villages from the air, militias followed on the ground murdering men and children, raping and branding women, and pillaging and burning homes.

The House and Senate declared the atrocities in Darfur "genocide" in July 2004. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, in remarks before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 9, 2004, stated that, "genocide has been committed in Darfur and the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility." Further, the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, in its January 25, 2005 report to Secretary General Kofi Annan, found that, "the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed are responsible for serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law amounting to crimes under international law."

Today, the situation in Sudan represents the worst humanitarian crisis facing the world. Since the start of the conflict, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that 350,000 people have died in the region as a result of violence, disease or starvation. In addition, according to the United States Agency for International Development, the crisis has resulted in 1.8 million people displaced from their homes and dependent on aid agencies for survival.

Due to continued pressure by the U.S. Government, in particular the efforts of former Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, the government of Sudan and the strongest faction of the Sudanese Liberation Army signed the Darfur Peace Agreement on May 4, 2006. Under the terms of the Darfur Peace Agreement, the Janjaweed militias are to be disarmed, rebel fighters are to be integrated into Sudan's national forces or provided with the support necessary to assist their return to civilian life, measures are to be implemented to increase security for displaced persons and refugees, power and wealth sharing mechanisms are to be established at the national and local levels, and the Sudanese government is to provide Darfur with robust reconstruction assistance amounting to \$700 million.

Unfortunately, the Justice and Equality Movement and a smaller rebel group formerly part of the Sudan Liberation Army did not sign the agreement, the Janjaweed has not been disarmed and violence persists resulting in the continued deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation.

I believe the Darfur Peace Agreement and deployment of a United Nations force are important steps towards ending the crisis in Darfur. I applaud U.S. efforts to mobilize international support for the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force to replace the African Union force currently in the region. The African Union has a 7,500 peacekeeping force deployed in Darfur. However, The African Union force is slow, poorly equipped and too small. Moreover, this force is quickly running out of funding and has a limited mandate that allows it to monitor but not enforce the cease-fire agreement.

On September 1, 2006 the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution authorizing the deployment of a U.N. military force of up to 17,300 members and a civilian police force

of 3,300 with a Chapter VII mandate authorizing the use of force to protect civilians, relief workers and U.N. workers. Regrettably, the Government of Sudan has refused to accept a U.N. deployment. In a statement reported by the New York Times on August 22, 2006, Sudan's President, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, seemed to suggest he would resist such a deployment with force when he stated Sudan would "defeat any forces entering the country just as Hezbollah has defeated the Israeli forces."

On August 31, 2006, I attended a rally at the Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania sponsored by the Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition to call attention to the crisis in Darfur. The following day, I wrote to President Bush urging he appoint a Special Envoy to Sudan. With so many lives hanging in the balance, it is vital that the U.S. demonstrate its commitment at the highest level to resolving the Darfur crisis. I believe the appointment of a Special Envoy, charged to proactively work with all parties to fully implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and secure the deployment of a U.N. force represents the best prospect for avoiding further catastrophe in Darfur.

The crisis in Darfur can not be ignored. The international community must be allowed to take action before the situation deteriorates further. I urge the Administration to appoint a Special Envoy to Sudan to work with all parties to bring an end to the crisis, and urge the Government of Sudan to allow the deployment of a U.N. force.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, before proceeding to the nomination of Kimberly Ann Moore to be U.S. circuit judge for the Federal Circuit, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for 10 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, at the conclusion of these brief remarks, I ask unanimous consent that a full text of my report on foreign travel be printed in the record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit I.)

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, as is my custom, when I return from foreign travel, I file a report with the Senate.

From August 5 to August 24, I traveled abroad. I started with a delegation led by Senator TED STEVENS and Senator DAN INOUE to China where eight U.S. Senators participated in a forum with Parliamentarians from China. We discussed a broad range of issues, with the Chinese delegation being very forceful on their concern about the one-nation policy, that Taiwan not be